

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 IO-14 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 NIC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4594

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: SOVIET WEEKLY ENDORSES PLO AS PALESTINIAN
REPRESENTATIVE

1. SUMMARY. LITERARY GAZETTE REVIEW DECEMBER 12
OF POSITION IN ME (BY IGOR BELYAYEV) ASSERTS ME
PEACE CONFERENCE MUST DEAL WITH PLO ON PALESTINIAN
MATTERS, AND PLO MUST DEFINE ITS POSITION ON CONCRETE
PROPOSALS WORKED OUT DURING SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. LENGTHY SURVEY OF ME SITUATION BY AUTHORITATIVE
SOVIET ARABIST DR. IGOR BELYAYEV (AFRICA INSTITUTE)
REVIEWS BACKGROUND TO PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND SAYS
PALESTINIANS HAVE OWN PALESTINIAN LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION. ALGIERS ARAB SUMMIT REAFFIRMED PLO IS
SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.
"THEREFORE," SAYS BELYAYEV, "WHEN INTERESTED
PARTIES BEGIN TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE VARIANTS FOR SOLVING
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PALESTINIAN PROBLEM DURING THE UPCOMING POLITICAL

SETTLEMENT THEY MUST DO BUSINESS WITH POL," AND PLO
MUST FORMULATE ITS POSITIONS ON CONCRETE PROPOSALS ABOUT
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WHICH MAY BE WORKED OUT IN THE
PROCESS OF SETTLEMENT.

3. REMAINDER OF ARTICLE IS LENGTHY REPLAY OF
PREVIOUSLY STATED SOVIET VIEWS ON ME SETTLEMENT.
BELYAYEV REHASHES THEME THAT 1973 IS NOT 1967; ISRAEL
IS ISOLATED: ARABS ARE UNITED; AND ME WAR DESTROYED
ASSUMPTION OF ISREALI MILITARY SUPERIORITY. HE WARNS
THAT THOSE WHO PUSH ISRAELIS ON PATH OF NON-
RECONCILIATION, "AMONG THEM CERTAIN AMERICAN SENATORS
AND CONGRESSMEN" IN PRACTICE ARE PUSHING ISREAL TOWARD
SUICIDE. ONLY SOLUTION TO ME CRISIS IS POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

4. ON TERMS OF SETTLEMENT BELYAYEV SAYS ISRAELI
INTERPRETATION OF SC RES. 242 SECTION ON WITHDRAWAL FROM
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS "TO SAY THE LEAST PECULIAR".
ARABS INSIST ON RETURN OF "ALL" OCCUPIED LAND.
BELYAYEV ALSO REJECTS ISRAELI VIEWS ON SECURE
BOUNDARIES SAYING ONLY SECURITY LIES IN GOOD RELATIONS
WITH NEIGHBORS. HE THEN SAYS IF ISRAEL INTENDS TO TURN
NEW PAGE IN HER HISTORY SHE MUST RECOGNIZE SHE IS ME STATE
AND NOT "OUTPOST OF FREE WORLD" SURROUNDED BY
HOSTILE COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: BELYAYEV ENDORSEMENT OF PLO AS PALESTINIAN
REPRESENTATIVE IN ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS IS FIRST SUCH PUBLIC
ENDORSEMENT WE HAVE SEEN. HIS ADMONITION TO PLO TO
FORMULATE CONCRETE PROPOSALS AND HIS IMPLICIT
ASSUMPTION THAT PLO WILL PARTICIPATE ONLY IN LATER STAGES
OF ME SETTLEMENT PROCESS ALSO LEND WEIGHT TO IDEA THAT
SOVIETS HAVE URGED ARAFAT TO PURSUE PRACTICAL COURSE
REGARDING ME SETTLEMENT. COMING FROM BELYAYEV, WHO
MET ARAFAT DURING HIS MOSCOW VISIT AND IS RECOGNIZED
AUTHORITY ON ME AFFAIRS, WE BELIEVE STATEMENT ON
PLO MAY BE TRIAL BALLOON MEANT TO ALLOW
SOVIETS TO GAUGE REACTION TO MORE OPEN SOVIET SUPPORT OF
PLO.

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